

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 01275 051203Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 NSF-01 NAS-01 ICA-11
PM-05 /127 W

-----025575 051208Z /50

R 050843Z MAY 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0643
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING1275

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH ENRG CH US

SUBJ: VISIT OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY

REF: STATE 105113

1. SUMMARY. THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY VISITED PEKING THE FIRST WEEK IN MAY, AND GAVE SEMINARS TO THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE'S ATOMIC ENERGY INSTITUTE ON SEVERAL TYPES OF REACTORS FOR POWER GENERATION AND OTHER ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR POWER. THE GROUP HOPES TO RECEIVE A DELEGATION FROM THE PRC AND MEMBERS MAY VISIT WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS OTHER WAYS OF EXPANDING US-PRC CONTACTS IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY DELEGATION CALLED ON AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK MAY3 TO DISCUSS THEIR VISIT TO CHINA. THEY SAID THEY HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED AND TREATED BY THEIR HOSTS, THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES' ATOMIC ENERGY INSTITUTE. THEY PRESENTED TO CHINESE SCIENTISTS (BEING CAREFUL NOT TO DISCUSS CLASSIFIED, CONTROLLED, OR PROPRIETARY MATTERS) A SERIES OF SEMINARS ON NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION, IN-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PEKING 01275 051203Z

CLUDING PAPERS ON PRESSURIZED WATER REACTORS, HIGH PRESSURE GAS REACTORS, BREEDER REACTORS, NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT, AND UNIVERSITY CURRICULA ON NUCLEAR ENERGY. THE GROUP WAS PREPARED TO PRESENT A SEMINAR ON NUCLEAR FUSION, BUT THE CHINESE SCIENTISTS SHOWED NO INTEREST. THEY ALSO CONSIDERED BREEDER REACTORS IMPRACTICAL FOR CHINA. THE CHINESE QUESTIONS

WERE CAREFULLY PREPARED AND SHOWED A DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THE LITERATURE ON THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED, BUT ALSO SHOWED A STRIKING LACK OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING NUCLEAR REACTORS.

2. THE GROUP VISITED A 3.5 MEGAWATT REACTOR IN PEKING AND HEARD ABOUT A 10 MEGAWATT HEAVY WATER REACTOR IN PEKING WHICH THEY DID NOT VISIT (ONE MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION SAID HE THOUGHT THIS REACTOR WAS USED FOR PLUTONIUM PRODUCTION). THEY ALSO HEARD OF A LARGE REACTOR IN WOSHAN (?), SZECHUAN, BUT WERE UNABLE TO VISIT IT.

3. THE GROUP ASKED USLO ABOUT THE FEASIBILITY OF THE ANS INVITING A GROUP OF CHINESE SCIENTISTS TO VISIT THE US TO OBSERVE AND DISCUSS NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION. WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE VISIT TO THE FERMI LABORATORY IN MIND, WE TOLD THE GROUP THAT WE SAW NO OBJECTION, BUT WARNED THEM ABOUT SHOWING OR DISCUSSING CLASSIFIED AND EXPORT CONTROLLED MATERIALS IN MEETINGS WITH CHINESE VISITORS. A TENTATIVE INVITATION WAS EXTENDED THE EVENING OF MAY 3; AND THE CHINESE REACTION WAS VAGUE BUT POSITIVE.

4. THE GROUP ALSO PROPOSES TO MAKE PUBLISHED US MATERIALS ON NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION AVAILABLE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PEKING 01275 051203Z

PRC. THEY SEEMED WELL AWARE OF SECURITY REGULATIONS. IN ADDITION, CORWIN RICKARD, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ATOMIC COMPANY, SAID THAT HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED TWO SOVIET DELEGATIONS IN SAN DIEGO AND SUGGESTED THAT THE US TRY TO WORK OUT SIMILAR EXCHANGES WITH THE PRC.

5. AN EXCHANGE THROUGH THE US NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE WAS DISCUSSED BUT THE GROUP WAS NOT UNANIMOUS ON THAT CHANNEL. ONE MEMBER SAID THAT CHIEN SEN-CHIENG SAID THAT CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS OF SCIENTISTS SHOULD BE DIRECT, SPECIFICALLY BY-PASSING PRCLO (AND WE PRESUME USLO AND THE DEPARTMENT AS WELL).

6. THE DELEGATION SEEMED IMPRESSED WITH THE PROSPECTS FOR US EXPORTS OF ATOMIC POWER PLANTS TO THE PRC. ONE MEMBER SAID THAT HUA KUO-FENG'S MENTION IN HIS REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ATOMIC POWER PLANTS BY 1985 WAS BEING TAKEN AS A CONCRETE GOAL. CHINESE SCIENTISTS SAID THEY PREFERRED SMALLER (3-600 MEGAWATT) UNITS. THEY READILY ADMITTED THAT ANY REACTOR READY BY 1985 WOULD HAVE TO BE IMPORTED, AND SAID THAT THE

PRC WAS ALREADY DISCUSSING REACTORS WITH FRANCE AND THE FRG. THE US GROUP BELIEVES THAT SINCE US TECHNOLOGY WAS INVOLVED, THE US SHOULD EXPORT DIRECTLY RATHER THAN LET FRANCE OR GERMANY GET THE BUSINESS. WE REMINDED THEM THAT THE PRC HAS NOT JOINED THE IAEA, HAS NOT ACCEPTED SAFEGUARDS ON ATOMIC MATERIALS, AND THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF OBSTACLES IN US LAW AND REGULATIONS TO THE EXPORT OF A REACTOR TO CHINA.

7. THE GROUP LEFT PEKING MAY 4 FOR NANKING AND SHANGHAI, WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REPEAT THE SEMINAR THEY GAVE IN PEKING. AT LEAST TWO OF THE GROUP, DIETRICH AND WANG, PLAN TO CALL AT THE DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS FURTHER STEPS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND CHINESE NUCLEAR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PEKING 01275 051203Z

SCIENTISTS.

8. COMMENT: THIS VISIT IS ANOTHER CLEAR EXAMPLE OF PRC INITIATIVE IN MAKING CONTACT WITH US NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS. WE SEE CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE IN EXCHANGES IF THEY CAN BE MONITORED AND SOME USG CONTROL EXERCISED. WE SEE NO POSSIBILITY FOR EXPORT OF A REACTOR WITHOUT DRASTIC CHANGES IN US OR PRC POLICIES.
WOODCOCK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, SEMINARS, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PEKING01275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780192-0225
Format: TEL
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780589/aaaacxok.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7a773aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 105113
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2777627
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, CH, US, AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7a773aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014